THE SCARLET RUNNER

Twelve Episodes from the Automobile Romance by C. N. and A. M. Williamson, Produced in Motion Pictures by the Vitagraph Company, with Earle Williams as Star, and a Separate Cast for Each Episode.

FIFTH EPISODE THE JACOBEAN HOUSE"

CHAPTER V.

The Jacobean House. I the pile of letters awaiting him on his table Christopher found a queer telegram. It said: "Please come at ence with your car and try solve mystery at old house now used as hotel patronized by motorists. Same rate

per day for necessary time as for au-tomobile tour.—Sydney Chester, Wood House, New Forest. References, London and Scottish Bang." And the message was dated two days back. Christopher did not see why he should be applied to as a solver of mysteries. However, the telegram sounded inter-cesting.

per day for nocessary time as for altombolle tour.—Sydney Chester, wood House, New Furest. References, London and Scottish Bang. And the message and the second of the sec

on, the harassed expression of her face softening into tenderness. "There are pictures and accounts of it in books about the country. We've got the loveliest oak paneling in nearly all the rooms, and wonderful furniture. Of course, we love it, dearly—my mother and I, the only ones of the family who are left—but we're disgustingly poor; our branch of the Chesters have been growing poorer for generations. We had to see everything going to pieces, and there was no money for repairs. There were other troubles, too—oh, I may as well tell you, since you ought to know everything concerning us if you're to do any good. I was silly enough to fall in love with a man who ought to marry an heiress, for he's poor, too, and has a title, which makes poverty harder and more grinding. He's let his house—a show place—and because he won't give me up and look for a rich girl (he wouldn't have to look far or long) he's trying to get a fortune out of a ranch in Colorado. That made me feel as if wouldn't have to look far or long) he's trying to get a fortune out of a ranch in Colorado. That made me feel as if I must do something, and we couldn't let Wood House, because there's a clause in father's will against our doing so. We're obliged to live there, or forfeit it to the person, who would have inherited it is the place had been entailed and had had to go to a male heir.

tailed and had had to go to a male helr.

"But no such thought came to poor father as that mother and I would dream of making the house into an hotel, so it didn't occur to him to provide against such a contingency. It was I who had the idea—because I was desperate for money; and I heard how people like old houses in these daya—Americans and others who aren't used to things that are antique. At last I summoned up courage to propose to mother that we should advertise to entertain motorists and other travelers. mother that we should advertise to entertain motorists and other travelers.

"This thing that is happening to us is preposterous," said Miss Chester.

"People come to our house, perhaps for dinner or lunch, or perhaps for several days. But whichever it may be, during one of the meals—always the last if they're having more than one—every plece of jewelry they may be wearing, and all the money in their pockets and purses—except small silver and copper except small silver and copper-

Cast for Photoplay

Christopher Race. . Earle Williams Sidney ChesterZena Keefe Her MotherHelen Pillsbury Morley Chester ... Walter McGrail His WifeJosephine Earle Sir Walter Raven. . Harold Foshay

"Perhaps not mysteriously," suggested Christopher. "You mentioned having engaged new servants. One of them

that they seem no different from the wormholes which are slowly spoiling the old oak.

"When Morley was in the dining hall or one of the sitting rooms—whichever place we planned to have something happen—I would be in the locked office, and at a signal which he would give me when most of the servants were out of the room waiting to bring in a new course, I would turn on the spray. He always keet at the farthest end of the room, behind the sereen, and put his face to an open window there. Then, when everybody in the room was under the influence, which they were in a minute or two, he would take whatever he wanted from some unconscious man or woman, or even several persons, before any one woke up. We've had no one to help us except an assistant of the cook, whom I bribed to make it as long between courses as possible. When I was ready to have the servants go in with the next dish I would touch a little electric bell in the office, which Morley had arranged to communicate with the kitchen. The cook's assistant knows nothing, though, except that for some Teason it was convenient to me not to have the meals hurried and to be able to regulate exactly the moment when the different courses should go in.

Long before dawn Mr. and Mrs. Morley Chester left, Wood House, Next day Christopher told Sidney and Sir Walter Raven the tale as it had been told to him. Advardsements were put in the papers informing victims of the strange thefts where they could recover their property. Christopher would not accept any payment from Sidney Chester—only a piece of her wedding cake to "dream on."

A New Adventure Next Week





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